

Lloyd claims 7th victory at Corning 100

Clerical Medical and Manx Sports Aid Foundation backed 22-year-old Alex Lloyd claimed his 7th victory of the season and 9th in his Indy Pro career at Watkins Glen, a 3.4 mile road course, this weekend. It was a double header at the Corning 100, with race 1 on Saturday and race 2 on Sunday.

Qualifying took place over the period of 2 sessions, with the best time overall from each of the 2 sessions determining the grid for race 1. Alex's time of 1.37.2 put Alex in 2nd for race 1. Alex has now qualified on the front row in every qualifying session this season.

"We started off in practice session 1 a long way off the pace. We didn't test here last week like some of our competitors and we quickly found that to be a disadvantage. We worked hard between sessions and made some big changes to the car and reaped some big rewards. For sure 2nd isn't great but we made big steps forward today and I am sure we will continue to improve during the weekend."

As soon as race 1 started on the Saturday, Alex immediately knew that he was going to have a tough day as there was too much downforce on the car which would really hurt him on the straights. Any time he gained through the corners was lost down the front and back straight. Despite this, Alex finished 3rd, and kept up his run of not yet finishing off the podium. With the reverse grid for race 2 the top 6 were inverted which therefore meant Alex was to start race 2 from 4th position.

"We made a big mistake on downforce and that really hurt us today. On lap 1 I radioed in to the team and knew from then on it was going to be a long day. Mechanically we had a car capable of winning but too much wing made this impossible. It is very frustrating because we should have done better. I am confident that tomorrow we can make up for this."

For race 2 Alex and the Sam Schmidt Motorsports team tuned the car, learning from their mistakes in race 1, determined to get the best out of the car. At the start Alex pushed his way up to 3rd at the first corner. On lap 2 he drove round the outside of Phil Giebler to take 2nd. By lap 4 he passed Daniel Herrington on the inside, with 2 wheels on the grass, it was a daring but calculated move that put him into the race lead. From then it was a battle with the 2005 champion and race 1 winner Wade Cunningham. Alex drove every lap like a qualifying lap and began to edge away, eventually to a 4.6 second lead to take a comfortable win.

"Today we showed what a strong team we are. After struggling at the start of the weekend we can finish by being the dominant car. I must send a big thank you to the whole team, they really have done a stunning job. We are now rapidly closing in on the title but we must keep performing at this high level. I won't think I have it wrapped up until I have the Firestone Firehawk Cup in my hands."

Alex's 7th win this year tied the series record for most wins in a season. He also set a new record for 13 consecutive top 5 finishes dating back last season. This season Alex has 7 wins, a pair of 2nd places and one 3rd. This gives Alex a massive lead in the Championship with 6 races remaining

The Indy Pro Series returns to action this weekend at Nashville Super Speedway. You can watch all the practice sessions and race live on www.Indycar.com/pro

Championship Positions after 10/16 rounds

1 st – Alex Lloyd	477 (7 wins)
2 nd – Hideki Mutoh	339
3 rd – Bobby Wilson	277
4 th – Wade Cunningham	270
5 th – Mike Potekhen	231

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